Memorandum

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Amanda Kain, Utilities and Engineering
Date: December 30, 2009
Subject: Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics One-Day Collection Report

Date of Event: November 7, 2009
Time of Event: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Location of Event: LP Frans Stadium, Hickory

Number of vehicles participating: 723
Number of households represented: 1,059

Cost for HHW collection: $36,702.11
Cost for Electronic collection: $ 3,936.27
Cost for advertising: $ 2,115.24
Total: $42,753.62

Funding from GDS   (12,500.00)
GDS provides $25,000 annually,
$12,500 for each event.

Revenue for misc electronics: (834.86)
Revenue for lead acid batteries: (81.65)

**Cost for Catawba County
  Solid Waste Enterprise:**   **$29,337.11**

Manpower: $ 1,200.00
Equipment: $ 120.00
Facility and parking lot rental: $ 258.00
Food Expenses $ 100.00
Cost for City of Hickory: **$ 1,678.00**

Total Cost for Project: **$31,015.11**
(No County taxes were employed in this event)

Cost Comparison for Catawba County Solid Waste Enterprise Fund:

Fall 09	Spring 09	Fall 08	Spring 08	Fall 07	Spring 07
$29,337.11	$24,345.18	$17,298.34	$23,952.03	$16,013.40	$15,186.84

Average cost
$21,022.15

Staff/Volunteers:

Toni Norton, Catawba County

Dave Hardin, Catawba County

Amanda Kain, Catawba County

Chucky Thompson, City of Hickory

Daryl Martin, City of Hickory

Floyd Culbreath, City of Hickory

Gene Hahn, City of Hickory

Kenneth Sharpe, City of Hickory

Todd Little, City of Hickory

Tommy Hughes, City of Hickory

Zeke Trevino, City of Hickory

To provide citizens with a means to dispose of general household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronics, Catawba County together with the City of Hickory recently held its seventh combined county/city one-day collection event.

The HHW collection accepts materials such as oil and latex paint, aerosols, used motor oil, antifreeze, mercury, etc. The electronics collection includes telephones, fax machines, copiers, stereo equipment, VCR's, camcorders, computers/laptops, keyboards, printers, etc. in addition to televisions. County and City staff implemented the event. Garbage Disposal Service (GDS) provides bi-annual funding for the event as outlined in the current Solid Waste Management Franchise agreement, in the amount of $12,500.00.

The City of Hickory provided roll off dumpsters for cardboard and non-recyclable solid waste that is a by-product of the event.

This event was the most successful to date with 723 vehicles passing through the drive-up collection representing 1,059 households. The cost to Catawba County Solid Waste was $29,337.11. The total cost of the event is driven by the type and quantity of waste handled during the event.

The parking area of the LP Frans Stadium in Hickory was utilized again this year providing ample space for another well-organized event including an express lane to better serve the citizens. Participants had an average wait time with traffic running smoothly through the area.

How was the event promoted?

Dave Hardin, Public Information Officer advertised the fall event by placing ads in the Newton Observer News Enterprise, Hickory Daily Record, Charlotte Observer-Catawba Valley Neighbors, News at Norman, WNNC Radio, and WHKY Radio and TV. Along with internal notifications by e-mail and publication in the "Spirit" newsletter, e-newsletter, and brochures were distributed to the County Libraries, county buildings, inter-departments, and both Permit Center locations. Mandy Pitts, City of Hickory Public Information Officer advertised the event through the City Council Circular newsletter and utility bills. Also, local municipalities were given information about the event to distribute throughout their buildings and in newsletters.

What kind of waste was collected?
General Household Hazardous Waste
Contractor: Clean Harbors, Reidsville, NC
Total HHW collected = 43,257 lbs

Pesticide Waste
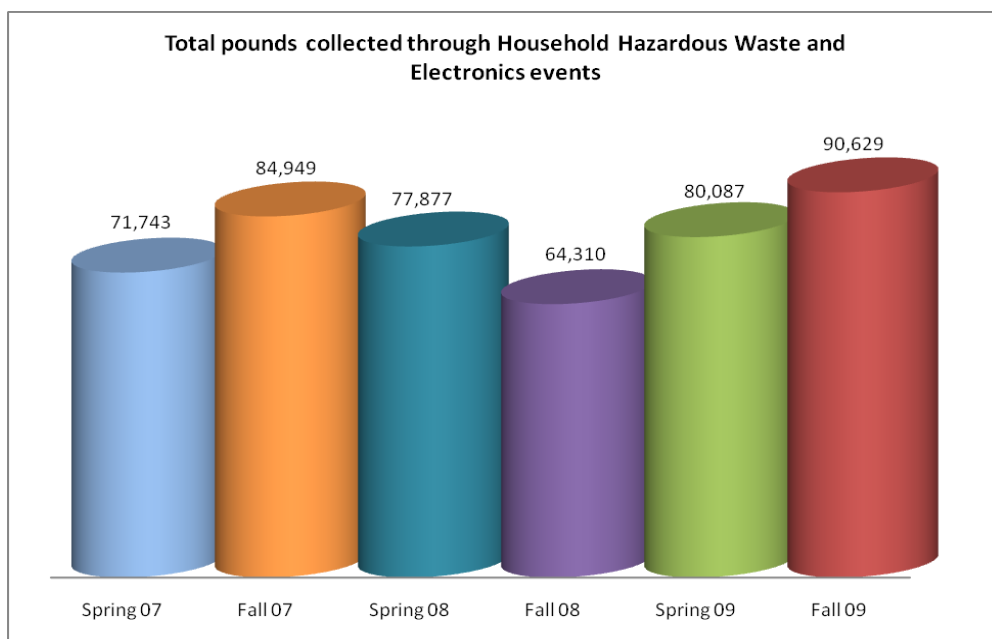Contractor: NC Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Total Pesticides collected = 1,006 lbs

Electronics and Computer Waste
Contractor: Synergy Recycling LLC, Madison, NC
Total electronic and computer waste collected = 46,366 lbs

Grand total collected = 90,629 lbs

Total pounds collected through Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics events

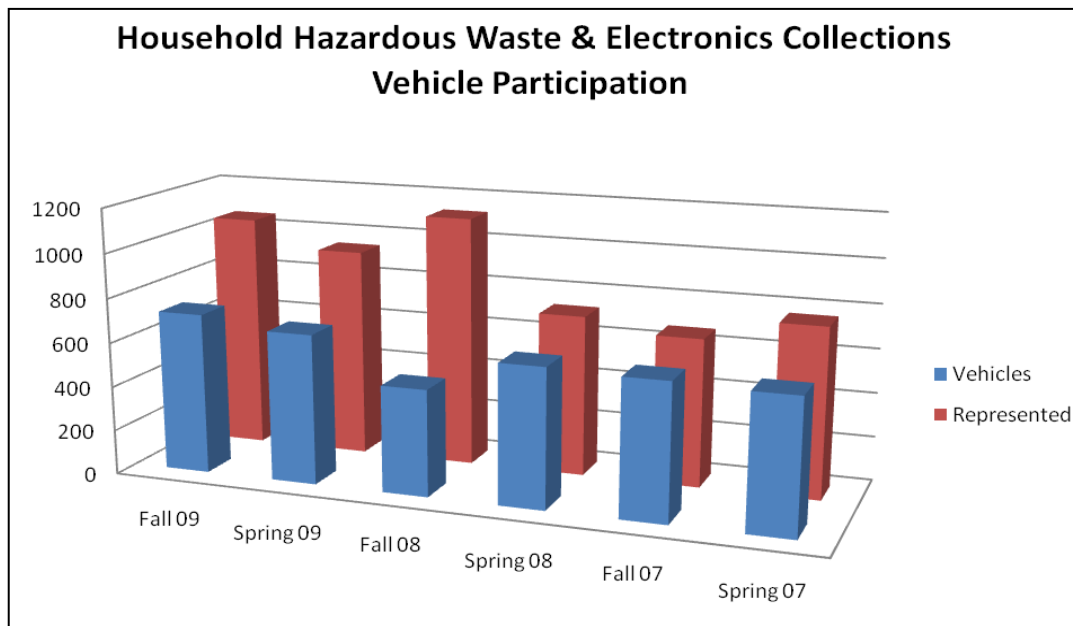| Spring 07	Fall 07	Spring 08	Fall 08	Spring 09	Fall 09
71,743	84,949	77,877	64,310	80,087	90,629

Materials collected at no cost to Catawba County:
- ✓ Pesticides - NC Department of Agriculture
- ✓ Used oil – Clean Harbors
- ✓ Certain types of Computer Monitors, CPU's, Peripheral, Misc Electronics, Circuit Boards, Wire, Lead Acid Batteries, Ink Cartridges, and Cell Phones – Synergy Recycling LLC collects free of charge and pays County revenue for the items listed above as per stated in contract.

What about this year's survey?
Citizens were surveyed as they proceeded through the disposal line indicating once again that the newspaper was the most effective means of advertising by reaching 368 participants followed by newsletters then word of mouth. One of the survey questions was an attempt to locate the participants' household to learn if all areas of the County were represented. Responses indicated that 531 participants were from Hickory, 65 from Conover, 53 from Newton, 10 from Maiden, and 17 from Claremont. The remaining 47 participants were well spread throughout the County. Survey responses are used for future County Solid Waste planning.

Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collections Vehicle Participation

Where Do We Go After The Event?

Having two events at different locations has proven to be an economical and feasible method of household hazardous waste collection, disposal and reduction. While the County has an obligation to be frugal with funds, we are also charged with being good stewards of the environment. Indeed, the County has made an attempt to fulfill this role. The County currently provides recycling for cell phones and ink jet cartridges at all five Solidwaste Convenience Centers, used motor oil and filters at four Centers, used anti-freeze collection at Bethany Church Rd and Blackburn Centers and paint collection at the Blackburn Center, all free of charge. The County has, partnered and will continue to partner, with the State to dispose of empty pesticide containers free of charge for county farmers at our Bethany Church Rd, Blackburn, and Oxford Solidwaste Convenience Centers. The City of Hickory Solid Waste Transfer Station also accepts used motor oil and antifreeze at no charge throughout the year.

Catawba County residents and businesses have access to a computer recycling program called ReConnect, offered by Goodwill Industries and Dell Computers in partnership with the County. Catawba County has four Goodwill drop off locations that will accept unwanted computers and computer related materials from residents and businesses, free of charge.

We will continue to utilize various outlets for waste reduction and education through the waste reduction coordinator/educator's outreach to schools, local and state committees, pamphlets, web pages, Keep Catawba County Beautiful, etc.

In closing, staff recommends continuing the two events next year, one in the spring at the Government Center and one in the fall within the City of Hickory.

Please feel free to contact me at 828-465-8217 with any specific questions you have concerning HHW or electronics collection recommendations.